



WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**E C O L O G Y**

As required by the Washington State Administrative Act, RCW 34.05.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO  
Chapter 173-160 WAC, Minimum Standards for Construction and  
Maintenance of Wells; and Chapter 173-162 WAC, Rules and Regulations  
Governing the Regulation and Licensing of Well Contractors and Operators

November 21, 2006

Publication Number: 06-11-038

---

As required by the Washington State Administrative Act, RCW 34.05.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO

CHAPTER 173-160 WAC, Minimum Standards for Construction and Maintenance of Wells, and CHAPTER 173-162 WAC, Rules and Regulations Governing the Regulation and Licensing of Well Contractors and Operators

Prepared by:

Dick Szymarek, Marian Bruner, and Marsha Beery  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Water Resources Program

November 21, 2006

Publication Number: 06-11-038

*If you need this document in an alternate format, please contact the Water Resources Program at (360) 407-6600. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. How the Agency intends to implement and enforce the rule .....	<a href="#">4</a>
2. How the Agency intends to inform and educate affected persons about the rule .....	<a href="#">4</a>
3. How the Agency intends to promote and assist voluntary compliance for this rule. ..	<a href="#">4</a>
4. How the Agency intends to evaluate whether the rule achieves the purpose for which it was adopted .....	<a href="#">5</a>
5. How the Agency intends to train and inform Ecology program staff regarding new rule or rule amendment. ....	<a href="#">5</a>
6. Supporting documents the Agency may need to revise because of the rule amendment or new supporting documents the Agency may need to develop because of a new rule.....	<a href="#">5</a>

## **Implementation Plan for Amendments to Chapter 173-160 WAC, Minimum Standards for Construction and Maintenance of Wells, and Chapter 173-162 WAC, Rules and Regulations Governing the Regulation and Licensing of Well Contractors and Operators**

### **1. Please describe how the Agency intends to implement and enforce the rule. Please include a description of the resources the Agency intends to use.**

Ecology's Water Resources Program will be the lead in implementing and enforcing these rules. Implementation and enforcement of these rules will be done by regional coordinators in Ecology's four regional offices (one per each regional office) and by county inspectors in the sixteen counties that have authority for delegation of the well inspection program.

### **2. Please describe how the Agency intends to inform and educate affected persons about the rule.**

Two Water Resource headquarters staff and four regional coordinators will train and educate affected parties. The trainers will develop a timeline for these activities after the rules are adopted. Within 90 days after the rule amendments are adopted:

- Ecology's Water Resources headquarters staff will train and educate the four regional coordinators.
- Headquarters' staff with assistance of the four regional coordinators will conduct a workshop to train and educate other Ecology program staff, other state agencies, county inspectors, and other governmental organizations.
- Water Resources communication staff will prepare a focus sheet describing the rule changes, to be distributed to the regional coordinators, agency staff, other state agencies, drillers, and other interested parties. This focus sheet and related information will be posted on the Water Resource well drilling website.

For those delegated counties that do not attend the workshop described above, Water Resource regional coordinators will set up training sessions with the county staff either individually in their offices or as a group with other counties as appropriate.

Within the first six months of 2007, Water Resource headquarters staff and the regional coordinators will train and educate drillers and related businesses at various continuing education training seminars scheduled during that time.

### **3. Please describe how the Agency intends to promote and assist voluntary compliance for this rule.**

Water Resources staff intend to promote and assist voluntary compliance by providing the training as described above to drillers, local government, other state agencies, consultants, engineers, hydrogeologists and other interested parties.

Water Resources headquarters staff and the regional coordinators will continue to provide technical assistance to interested parties regarding these regulations as needed. A focus sheet describing the rule changes will be mailed out to drillers and other interested parties within ninety days after the rules are adopted.

**4. Please describe how the Agency intends to evaluate whether the rule achieves the purpose for which it was adopted, including to the maximum extent practicable, the use of interim milestones to assess progress and the use of objectively measurable outcome.**

Water Resources staff have recently developed a quarterly report which is an online report that will be used by the delegated counties to report well inspection, decommissioning and enforcement activities. Information from the quarterly report will be used by these staff to prepare an annual report. Water Resources staff will meet with delegated counties on an annual basis and use the enforcement information on this report as well as other information gathered from the meetings to evaluate whether or not the rules are achieving the purpose for which they were adopted. Water Resource staff will:

- use the quarterly reports to measure trends over the year as another way to determine success.
- meet with the Ecology regional coordinators on a quarterly basis to discuss progress in each region; and
- evaluate success through these discussions..

**5. Please describe how the Agency intends to train and inform Ecology staff regarding new rule or rule amendment.**

Water Resources headquarters staff will train and educate the regional coordinators and hold a workshop for Ecology as well as other state agency staff, county inspectors, and other governmental organizations within ninety days after the adoption of the rules. Water Resources staff will also distribute a focus sheet describing the changes to the regional coordinators, agency staff, and interested parties within ninety days after adoption of the rules.

**6. Please identify supporting documents that may need to be revised because of the rule amendment. Or Identify new supporting documents that need to be developed because of a new rule.**

Documents that will need to be revised include:

- Well Tagging Requirements
- A Guide to Washington's Well Operator License Program
- Water/Resource Protection Written Exam Study Package
- Renewing a Washington State Well Operator's License
- Continuing Education for Licensed Well Operators
- Well Drilling Fees

Documents that will need to be developed include:

- A focus sheet describing the rule changes.
- A policy on turbidity which will be done by Water Resources staff and the Technical Advisory Group.